



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1520-6122

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 2000
VOL. 47 NO. 16

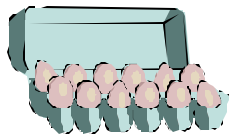
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



In Chicago, prices were lower. In the Eastern region, prices were unchanged to lower. Elsewhere, prices were unchanged. The market tone ranged no better than steady to very weak, mostly barely steady. Retail demand was often improved approaching the weekend, but overall remained light to no better than moderate, with best movement centering around the limited feature activity. Supplies ranged at least adequate to instances burdensome. Breaking stock supplies were at least adequate from regular sources, and any additional product was often procured at lower prices as dealers cautiously assessed the market. Light type fowl were fully adequate for immediate slaughter requirements.

NORTH ATLANTIC In Boston, prices were unchanged to three cents lower on all sizes. Prices were unchanged in Philadelphia and New England. The market tone was about steady and testing at present market values. Food service demand was usually light to moderate, although retail interest remained slow to fair. Supplies of all sizes were fully adequate to ample. Breaking stock offerings from regular suppliers were fully adequate, and demand for additional product was limited as dealers cautiously assessed the market. Light type hens were fully adequate for slaughter requirements.

NEW YORK Prices were unchanged. The market tone was generally steady and testing at current levels. Demand continued slow to no better than fair. Supplies were fully adequate to ample for needs.

MIDWEST Prices to producers in Iowa-Minnesota-Wisconsin and prices in Chicago were 10 cents lower for the larger sizes and mediums and were 2 cents lower for small. Prices in all other areas were unchanged. Prices reflect changes from the previous Tuesday's reported prices. The trade sentiment was about steady to at times weak. Retail demand was slightly improved from earlier in the week and was light to instances fair. Food service movement was mostly slow. Supplies were mixed, in most areas fully adequate to available for all sizes. Central States nest run breaking were lower compared to Tuesday's reported prices. Offerings were adequate to available for the light to occasionally moderate demand. Most breakers were satisfied with regular commitments and the occasional buyers were paying lower prices when in need. Floor stocks were at least adequate and building. Trade sentiment steady to instances barely steady.

CHICAGO Prices were 3 cents lower. The trade sentiment steady to weak. Retail and food service demand mixed and ranged from light to moderate, best where features are a factor. Offerings adequate to instances burdensome.

SOUTHERN Prices were unchanged. The market tone was cautiously steady to barely steady at current values. Retail demand was generally fair to occasionally moderate entering the weekend. Supplies of all sizes were at least adequate to fully adequate. Prices for next week's deliveries were trending lower than the current week. Breaking stock supplies were adequate from regular sources, and demand was limited beyond regular commitments as dealers gauged market developments closely. Light type fowl were fully sufficient for current processing schedules.

WEST COAST Prices unchanged. The market tone was very weak with asking prices for next week 12 cents lower on all sizes throughout the region. Retailer demand fair overall, best to cover features. Offerings ample.

PRICES TO RETAILERS - SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A AND US GRADE A WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR OR WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

NORTHEAST CITIES	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
Boston (Brown)	89-101	82-96	59-68
New York	56-58	53-56	44-47
Philadelphia	54-74	52-72	43-62

SOUTHERN CITIES

Atlanta (1) (2)	59-60	57.5-59	49-50
Jackson (1)	69-70	66-67	58-59
Major Louisiana Cities (1)	66-79	63-77	53-67

MIDWEST CITIES

Chicago	46-51	45-50	35-40
Detroit (2)	55-58	54-57	43-46
Major Ohio Cities (2)	56-65.5	55-64	44-53
Major Wisconsin Cities	59-66	57-64	47-54

WESTERN CITIES

Houston (1)	74-81	71-77	61-67
Southern California(Grade AA)(4)	80-92	79-86	69-75
California (Grade AA) (1) (3)	96	89	79

(1) - Prices Reported Weekly (3) - Reported Invoice Prices
(2) - Delivered Warehouse (4) - Prices To Retailers

CALIFORNIA EGGS Prices unchanged. The market tone was very weak with asking prices for next week 12 cents lower on all sizes. Retailer demand fair, best to cover features. Offerings ample. Small invoice price 59. Ads in Southern California: major- large dozen 69-97, smaller outlets- jumbo dozen 109, extra large dozen 99, large dozen 89-99, 18 pack 2 for 248, medium 20 pack 98.

CALIFORNIA

PRICES INVOICE, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	109
EXTRA LARGE	96
LARGE	89
MEDIUM	79

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	96-106
EXTRA LARGE	80-92
LARGE	79-86
MEDIUM	69-75

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	229-289
EXTRA LARGE	219-279
LARGE	199-209
MEDIUM	187-199

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Prices were lower. Demand for additional product was light to occasionally moderate. Offerings continue adequate to fully adequate. Regular commitments satisfy most breakers with an occasional buyer paying lower prices when in need. Supplies were at least adequate and building. Trade sentiment steady to instances barely steady.

PRICES PAID TO 11:00 A.M., MATERIAL EXCHANGED,
30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT,
DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
NEST RUN	25-28	25-27
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	10-13	

CENTRAL STATES AREA:
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI

EASTERN REGION BREAKING STOCK Prices were lower when compared to early week trading. Buyers were cautious and usually limiting purchases to regular suppliers as values continue to trend lower. Offerings were fully adequate for needs. Breaking schedules were getting back to about normal levels. The undertone was still unsettled but slightly steadier than early week trading. Cases broken under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending February 19, 2000 were unchanged from the previous week, but 2% less than the same week a year ago.

PRICES MATERIAL EXCHANGED,
30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT,
DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
NEST RUN	25-29	25-26
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	9-13	

EASTERN REGION AREA:
AL,CT,DE,FL,GA,KY,ME,MD,MA,MS,NH,NJ,NY,NC,PA,RI,SC,TN,VT,VA,WV

EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 19-FEB-00

	(LBS IN THOUSANDS)		(EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)			
	CASES BROKEN	LIQUID WHOLE	LIQUID WHITE	LIQUID YOLK	DRIED	INED.
CW	1,068,696	23,696	11,260	5,961	2,805	3,449
PW	1,050,275	23,585	10,553	5,812	3,385	3,536
LY	1,046,740	23,481	10,873	5,768	2,846	3,337
% PW	2	0	7	3	-17	-2
% LY	2	1	4	3	-1	3
2000	7,798,356	175,183	78,804	43,473	22,116	26,022
1999	7,217,323	161,939	71,567	40,274	18,689	22,841

AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE -

	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	LAST YEAR
	41.51	41.40	41.52

NATIONAL LIQUID EGGS No pasteurized salt yolk reported with pasteurized whites reported at 34 and 36 cents fob. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak for whole egg and under increasing pressure. Trade sentiment was about steady to instances barely steady for whites and yolk. Offerings were adequate for whole egg and yolk with demand light to fairly good. White offerings were slightly more available this week with demand usually fair. Regularly committed product was moving at a slightly better pace with spot business limited with buyers taking a wait and see attitude. Breaking stock supplies were at least adequate and growing.

Prices paid cents per lb., FOB Plant to 10:00AM Friday 25 February, 2000 non-pasteurized trucklot. For delivery within 14 days.

CLASS	LOADS	RANGE	WTD. AVG.	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK
WHOLE	9	22-29	25.56	-5.19
WHITES	23	29-34	31.04	-2.71
YOLKS	9	28-32	30.56	-2.39

EASTERN REGION FROZEN EGGS Prices generally trended unchanged to lower when compared to a week earlier, however whites were in the best position. Trading was light as buyers wait on further market developments. The undertone was unsettled and somewhat cautious. Liquid and frozen eggs (ingredients included) processed under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending February 19, 2000 were 3% more than last week, and unchanged when compared to a year ago. Shell egg supplies were fully adequate for full trade needs. WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES (CENTS PER POUND IN 30 LB. CONTAINERS)

	TRUCKLOTS RANGE	MOSTLY	LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.) RANGE
WHOLE	38-43	40-42	48-55
BLENDS (/)	TFEWR		55-59
WHITES	41-44		47-54
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	45-48		51-63
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	42-47	42-45	49-67

(/) - WHOLE PLUS YOLK PLUS SWEETENER, GENERALLY 28-32% EGG SOLIDS.

CENTRAL REGION FROZEN EGGS Frozen pricing was lower with the exception of sugar yolk which was unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to mostly barely steady for whole and whites and about steady for yolk. Offerings were adequate with demand usually quiet and limited to regular commitments. Breaking stock supplies were at least adequate to mostly fully adequate with an occasional load of graded shell eggs making its way into breaking channels.

WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES (CENTS PER POUND IN 30 LB. CONTAINERS)

	TRUCKLOTS RANGE
WHOLE	39-42
WHITES	42-44
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	46-48
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	43-45

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FROZEN EGGS Prices 3 cents lower on whole, 1 cent lower on yolks, and unchanged on whites. Southern California breaking activity for the week ending 2/19 was unchanged from the previous week. Breaking stock ample. Frozen demand light with freezer stocks adequate.

WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES, FOB SHIPPING POINT
(CENTS PER POUND IN 30 LB. CONTAINERS)

	LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.) RANGE
WHOLE	46-49
WHITES	47-50
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	51-54
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	48-51

NATIONAL DRIED EGG REPORT Prices were irregular, however mostly values were unchanged on yolk product and unchanged to lower on balance of items. Demand was only fair as traders watch further market developments. Offerings were sufficient for the limited demand. The undertone was usually unsettled with most traders cautious. Dried eggs processed under federal inspection for the week ending February 19, 2000 were 17 % less than the previous week, and 1% less than the same week a year ago.

WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES, DOLLARS PER LB., IN CONTAINERS, TRUCKLOT AND LESS-THAN-TRUCKLOT VOLUMES.

WHOLE	1.40-1.70	MOSTLY 1.48-1.60
YOLKS	1.18-1.25	MOSTLY 1.20-1.25
ALBUMEN, SPRAY, DRIED	3.00-3.45	MOSTLY 3.10-3.20
BLENDS (WHOLE PLUS SWEETENER)	1.15-1.30	MOSTLY 1.25

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR FEB 18 - FEB 24, 2000

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS								TOTAL LOADS							
SE				NE				MW				SC				NW				SW			
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS								
GNR W 1	35.67	31.50	37.50	38.60	—	—	10.00	GNR W 1	42.33	44.00	—	—	—	—	6.00								
GNR W 2	—	—	29.50	29.50	32.00	35.00	9.00	GNR W 2	—	28.00	—	—	—	—	3.00								
GNR W 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.00	GNR W 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.00								
GNR W 4	—	—	17.00	19.00	—	—	1.00	GNR BR 1	—	78.00	—	—	—	—	1.50								
GNR BR 1	—	77.00	57.75	65.67	—	—	10.50	GL W J	—	—	—	—	—	52.00	1.00								
GL W J	—	—	—	—	40.50	—	1.00	GL W XL	37.35	—	—	—	33.50	45.69	9.75								
GL W XL	38.00	39.50	46.00	41.89	37.84	—	18.75	GL W LG	33.02	—	—	—	—	45.55	22.00								
GL W LG	—	—	32.50	39.67	37.92	—	26.75	GL W MD	24.30	—	—	—	29.50	32.28	9.00								
GL W MD	—	27.00	29.16	28.55	28.50	—	9.50	NRBS - 39	17.00	19.00	—	—	—	—	1.00								
GL W SM	19.50	21.25	19.31	21.19	—	—	5.00																
GL BR XL	—	—	—	—	—	—	.25																
GL BR LG	—	—	61.00	63.00	—	—	2.00																
GL BR MD	—	—	22.00	24.00	—	—	1.00																
NRBS - 48	—	—	27.00	28.60	26.44	28.55	24.50																
NRBS - 45	—	—	—	—	23.25	25.00	4.00																
NRBS - 39	—	—	—	—	17.83	19.50	7.00																

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT-MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED. LOAD MOVEMENT REPRESENTS TOTAL MOVEMENT WITHIN 6 REGIONS.

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were unchanged. Demand was fair for fully adequate offerings. Processing schedules were reported as normal to heavy. The undertone was steady.

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Trading was light and too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate offerings of spent hens. Schedules were adequate for a slow demand on dressed product. Trade sentiment was steady at best.

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were unchanged with offerings fully adequate to ample for current needs. Trade sentiment steady.

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plants worked moderate schedules. Offerings irregular.

LIVE HENS

Prices paid for live hens (trucklot) cents/pounds at farm.

	LIGHT	RANGE	MAJORITY
Eastern Light	0-0	(1)	
Eastern Light	0-0	(2)	
So. Central Light	TFEWR	(2)	
No. Central Light	TFEWR	(1)	
No. Central Light	0-5	(2)	0
(1) Buyer Loading (2) Producer Loading			
(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT			

SHELL EGGS-12 METRO AREA FOR WEEK ENDING 25-Feb-00
AVERAGE PRICES ON SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A
LARGE OR BETTER, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED
STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	60.91	58.54	49.41
SOUTHERN	66.32	64.19	53.40
MIDWEST	57.12	55.95	45.44
WESTERN	90.57	84.26	66.24
TWELVE METRO AREAS	71.37	67.85	54.94
COMPUTED FROM SIMPLE WEEKLY AVERAGES WEIGHTED BY METROPOLITAN AREA POPULATIONS			

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Mostly prices were unchanged on light canners, and irregular on heavies when compared to a week earlier. Demand ranged from fair to good for irregular offerings of heavy. Floor stocks were clearing, however some increased in availability was noted. The undertone was a little more cautious on heavy canners and steady on lights.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) **HEAVY CANNER HENS** (WITHOUT NECKS)

26-27 MAJORITY 34-41 MAJORITY 37-39

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) **HEAVY CANNER HENS** (WITHOUT NECKS)

26-29 MAJORITY 26-28 35.25-41 MAJORITY 39-40

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 19-FEB-00

(PRELIMINARY) **U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY**

(THOUSANDS)	LIGHT	HEAVY	TOTAL
HEAD	1,986	1,335	3,321
LAST WEEK	1,976	1,362	3,338
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,055	1,299	3,354
TO-DATE/2000	14,229	9,301	23,530
TO-DATE/1999	15,555	9,229	24,784

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

(THOUSANDS)	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	599	0	599
LAST WEEK	633	22	655
SAME WEEK YR AGO	434	0	434
TO-DATE/2000	4,038	27	4,065
TO-DATE/1999	3,481	51	3,532

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

(THOUSANDS)	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	2,585	1,335	3,920
LAST WEEK	2,609	1,384	3,993
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,489	1,299	3,788
TO-DATE/2000	18,267	9,328	27,595
TO-DATE/1999	19,036	9,280	28,316

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade
U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (Preliminary)

Type	Week Ending February 12, 2000		Year-To-Date	
	(000)		(000)	
	2000	1999 /1	2000	1999
Liquid	142	703	760	1,850
Frozen	0	0	0	6
Dried	0	18	18	18
Total	142	721	778	1,874

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (Preliminary)

Type	Week Ending February 12, 2000		Year-To-Date	
	(000)		(000)	
	2000	1999 /1	2000	1999
Liquid	271	31	719	436
Frozen	2	1	18	57
Dried	40	0	201	0
Total	313	32	938	493

Inspected Shell Eggs
U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)

Type	Week Ending February 12, 2000		Year-To-Date	
	2000	1999 /1	2000	1999
Jumbo	0	0	13	0
Extra Large	280	150	2,133	1,200
Large	1,920	1,900	12,700	7,984
Medium	1,193	1,326	1,928	1,626
Ungraded	0	4,770	6,180	38,249
Misc	0	0	750	0
Total	3,393	8,146	23,704	49,059

/1 Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.
 Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch in cooperation with Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

DETROIT PRICES TO FIRST RECEIVERS, CASES INCLUDED, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, 30 DOZEN CASES, WHITE EGGS LOOSE.

JUMBO	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
63-66	54-60	52-57	41-46	25-29

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, LOOSE, AT FARM (CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS).

LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
26-28	17-19	13-15

NEW ENGLAND PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, BROWN EGGS LOOSE, AT FARM

JUMBO	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
107-110	70-73	63-66	40-43	16-19

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS -

SELECTED STGE CENTERS FEDERAL-STATE
 (INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	FREGS	TURKS	POP
	LBS	LBS	LBS
AM 21-Feb-00	5,051	109,980	79,272
AM 1-Feb-00	4,916	94,257	72,756
CHG	135	15723	6516
PCT CHG	3	17	9

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS W/E 19-Feb-00

SELECTED

CONSUMING CENTERS	CW	PW THOUSANDS	PCT CHG PW	LY
ATLANTA	25.4	26.1	-3	-17
BOSTON	3.6	3.5	3	-43
CHICAGO	44.6	40.1	11	9
DETROIT	26.5	25.1	6	11
KANSAS CITY	0.1	0.1	0	0
LOS ANGELES	90.7	92.8	-2	6
NEW ORLEANS	9.0	11.4	-21	-35
NEW YORK	33.1	41.7	-21	-21
ST. LOUIS	12.7	12.8	-1	5
SAN FRANCISCO	21.4	21.1	1	13
TOTAL	267.1	274.7	-3	-2
4 WK MVG AVG	290.3			

COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT REPORT

W/E 19-Feb-00

(RECEIPTS FROM PRODUCERS)

REGIONS	CASES (IN THOUS)	PERCENT CHANGE FROM	
		PREVIOUS WEEK	LAST YEAR
N. ATLANTIC	236.1	-3	-1
E.N. CENTRAL	459.4	-5	10
W.N. CENTRAL	241.1	-1	9
S. ATLANTIC	189.9	-1	-2
S. CENTRAL	72.8	3	8
WEST	194.7	0	-10
TOTAL	1394.0	-2	3

MATCHED PLANTS REPORTING 93 93

NEW ENGLAND WEEKLY SHELL EGG REPORT, FEBRUARY 22, 2000.
 PRICES PAID PER DOZEN GRADE A BROWN EGGS IN CARTONS DELIVERED STORE DOOR.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
MAINE	115	108	80	49
MOSTLY	-	-	-	-
NEW HAMPSHIRE	107-111	100-104	74-78	42-46
MOSTLY	109-110	102-103	76-77	44-45
RHODE ISLAND	109-113	102-106	76-80	45-49
MOSTLY	109	102	76	45
VERMONT	115-118	110-111	75-83	-
MOSTLY	118	111	83	-

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS.
POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Grover T. Hunter (Chief)
	Fax	(202)720-2403	
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman (Officer-In-Charge)
	Fax	(404)562-5875	
Jackson, MS	Recorded	(404)562-5856	Gary Brown (Officer-In-Charge)
	Fax	(601)965-4661	
Des Moines, IA	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins (Officer-In-Charge)
	Fax	(515)284-4468	
Bell, CA	Recorded	(515)284-4545	Jim Derby (Officer-In-Charge)
	Voice	(323)269-4154	
	Fax	(323)269-5926	
	Recorded	(323)260-4676	